

### MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC QUALITIES

- IMMENSE TERRITORIAL STATE
- NORTHERNMOST LARGE AND POPULOUS COUNTRY IN THE WORLD
- A FORMER WORLD COLONIAL POWER
- A COMPARITIVELY SMALL (<150 MILLION) AND CONCENTRATED POPULATION
- CONCENTRATED DEVELOPMENT
- MULTICULTURAL STATE
- MINIMAL PORTS

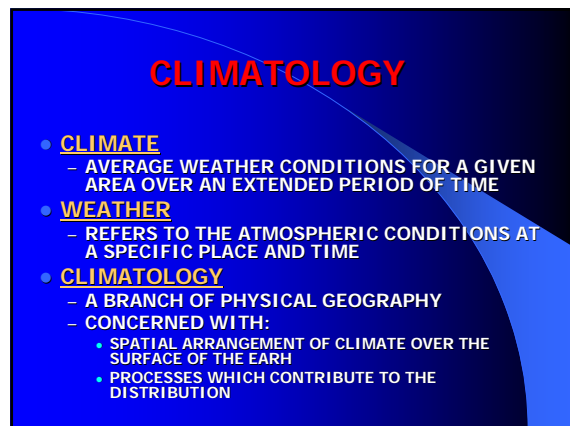
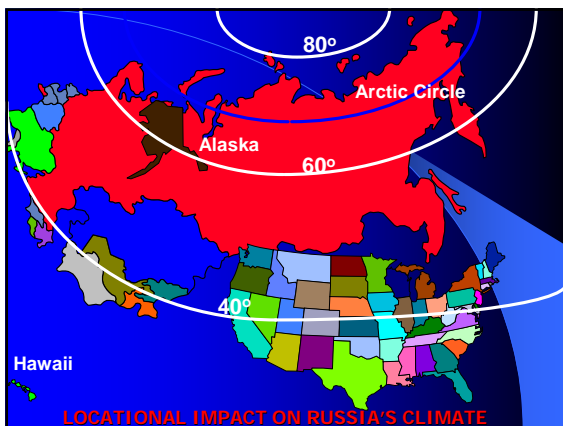
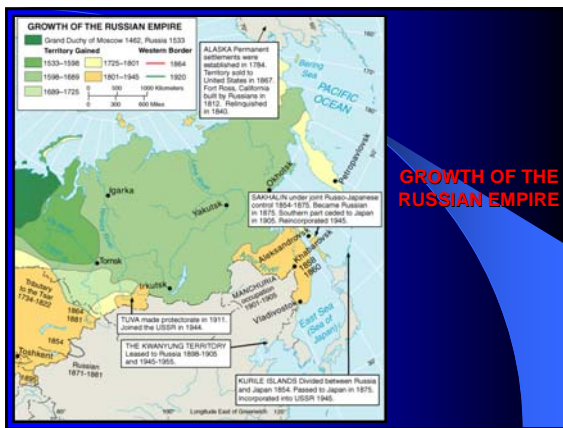
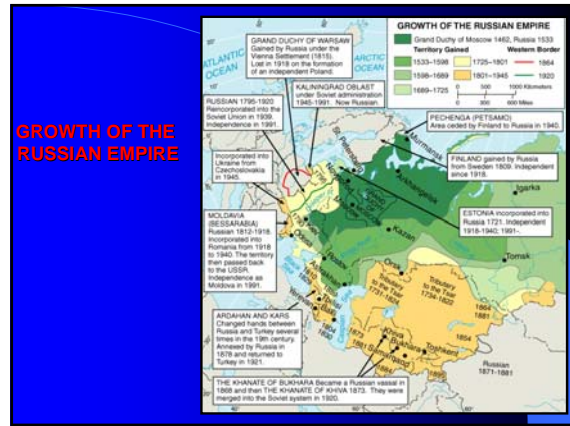
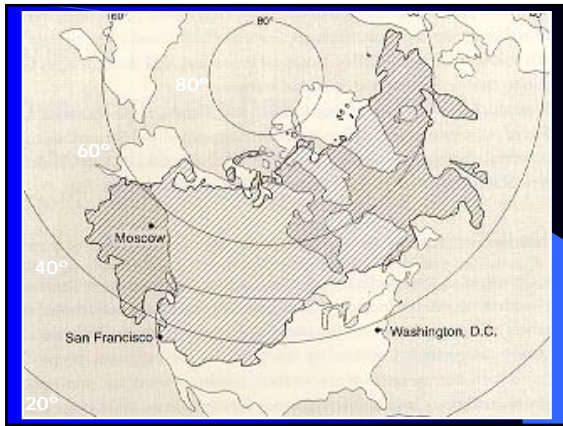
### RUSSIA'S DIMENSIONS

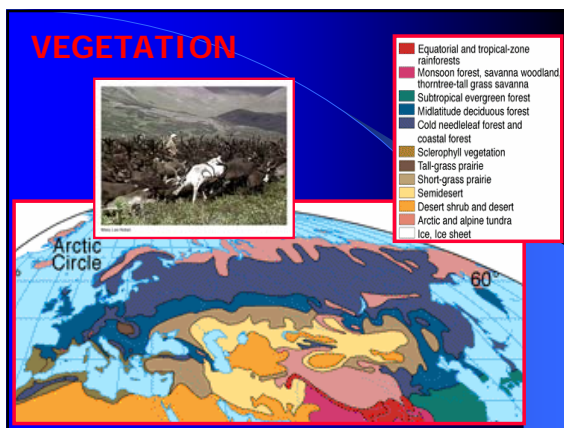
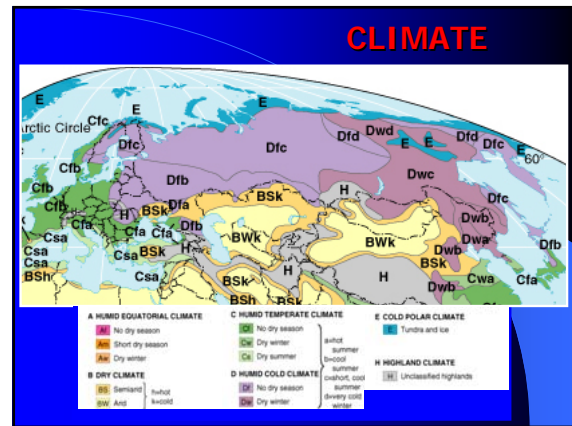
- SPANS 11 TIME ZONES
- GULF OF FINLAND TO ALASKA (WEST TO EAST), AND WELL ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE TO SALT LAKE CITY (NORTH TO SOUTH)
- TWICE THE SIZE OF THE US OR CHINA
- SIBERIA: "SLEEPING LAND"



### SIZE, LOCATION AND SPACE RELATIONSHIPS

- **LATITUDINAL EXTENT**
  - Northernmost point: Rudolf Island in Franz Joseph Land (82°)
  - Southernmost point: Grozny in west and Vladivostok in east (44°)
- **LONGITUDINAL EXTENT**
  - More than twice its maximum north-south extent and extends through 11 time zones
- Russia makes up 76.6% of the total territory of the former USSR (17,075,400 km--almost twice the size of the US).





- # CLIMATE AS A RESTRICTIVE ELEMENT
- **AGRICULTURE**
    - Short growing seasons
    - Drought prone
    - Erosion (accelerated via snow melt)
  - **SETTLEMENT PATTERNS & TRANSPORTATION**
  - **INDUSTRY**
    - High energy consumption
    - Specialized equipment and facilities
    - Extractive
      - permafrost
      - spring and fall mud
      - special equipment and facilities - \$\$\$







## PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGIONS

- **RUSSIAN PLAIN**
  - EASTWARD CONTINUATION OF NORTH EUROPEAN LOWLAND
  - CORE AREA (MOSCOW BASIN)
- **URAL MOUNTAINS**
  - 2,000 MILES LONG (NORTH-SOUTH)
  - YIELD A VARIETY OF MINERALS
- **WEST SIBERIAN PLAIN**
  - WORLD'S LARGEST UNBROKEN LOWLANDS
  - PERMAFROST

## PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGIONS

- **CENTRAL SIBERIAN PLATEAU**
  - SPARSELY POPULATED, TEMPERATURE EXTREMES, PERMAFROST
- **YAKUTSK BASIN**
  - MOUNTAINOUS, HIGH RELIEF
- **EASTERN HIGHLANDS**
  - RANGES, RIDGES, PRECIPITOUS VALLEYS, VOLCANIC MOUNTAINS, LAKE BAYKAL
- **CENTRAL ASIAN RANGES**
  - RISE ABOVE THE SNOW LINE, GLACIATED
- **CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS**
  - EXTENSIONS OF THE ALPINES

## RUSSIAN PLAIN



## THE URAL MOUNTAINS



- The north-south length covers 2500 kms.
- The highest points are in the Northern Urals-2000 meters in places.
- The Central Urals are the lowest section and include several key crossing places.
- The Southern Urals are wider and consist of a number of parallel north-south ridges and intervening valleys.
- Ural forests and minerals have been the basis for industrialization and boast at least twenty different commercially usable minerals.

## WEST SIBERIAN PLAIN



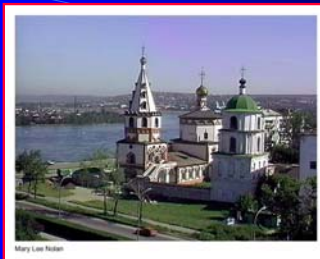
- The world's largest unbroken lowland
- Includes the Ob and Irtysh River Basin
- Permafrost
- Major Cities:
  - Omsk
  - Novosibirsk

## CENTRAL SIBERIAN PLATEAU

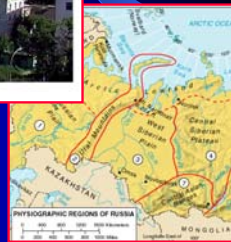
- Sparsely settled
- Inaccessible
- Restrictive climate
- Permafrost
- Natural resources



## EASTERN HIGHLANDS



## CENTRAL ASIAN RANGES



## CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS



## POLITICAL FRAMEWORK

- SOVIET LEGACY
  - Revolution (1905-1917)
  - *Bolsheviks* versus *Mensheviks*
  - V.I. Lenin (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov)
  - Capital: Petrograd to Moscow (1918)
- FEDERATION/FEDERAL STRUCTURE
  - USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) -1924
  - SSRs, ASSRs, Autonomous Regions
- RUSSIFICATION



## SOVIET UNION

## COMMAND ECONOMY

- An economy in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state and in which central planning of the structure and the output prevails
- Features of the Soviet economy
  - Production of particular manufactured goods to particular places
  - Economic interdependence of the republics

## ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

- CENTRALLY PLANNED (early 1920s)
  - MAJOR OBJECTIVES
    - Speed industrialization
    - Collectivize agriculture



## SOVIET LEADERS

- Czarism (<1917)
- Lenin
- Stalin
- Khrushchev
- Brezhnev
- Gorbachev



## SOVIET LEADERS

- Lenin (1918 - 1927)
  - Introduced Marxist philosophy
  - Replaced private with public ownership
  - Developed national economic plans
  - Established Soviet political structure based on ethnic identities



## SOVIET LEADERS

- Stalin (1927 - 1953)
  - All assets nationalized
  - Creation of huge centralized state machine over all aspects of Soviet life
  - Purges of dissidents (30-60 million)
  - Collectivized farming (sovkhozs)
  - Concentration on heavy industry at expense of agriculture



## SOVIET LEADERS

- Khrushchev (1953 - 1964)
  - Greater emphasis on agriculture
  - Virgin Lands Program - pastures into irrigated wheat fields
  - Ultimately led to Aral Sea environmental disaster
- Brezhnev (1964 - 1982)
  - Height of the Cold War
  - Military/industrial economy
  - Economic stagnation (agriculture)



## SOVIET LEADERS

- Gorbachev (1985 - 1991)
- Initiated economic and political reform
- **PERESTROIKA**
  - Restructuring
  - Intended to produce major changes to both the economic and political system
  - **Economic aim:** to catch up with western economies
  - **Political aim:** reform of the Communist Party
- **GLASNOST**
  - Policy of encouraging greater openness in both internal and external affairs



## COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION (Conditions in 1990 & 1991)

- A sharp **decline** in agricultural & industrial **production**
  - Economic output down by 4% in 1990 & 10-15% in first half of 1991
- Intensification of ethno-cultural **nationalism** & **separatism**
  - Unity of the Soviet Union (macro) & unity of republics (micro) threatened
- **Pluralization** of Soviet politics & **steady erosion** of Communist Party monopoly or power

## COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION (Conditions in 1990 & 1991)

- The emergence of a "commonwealth" of Slavic countries to replace the Soviet Union
- Commonwealth of Independent States
- The resignation of President Gorbachev



## CURRENT ORGANIZATION

- RUSSIAN FEDERATION (1992)
- 89 POLITICAL UNITS
  - 21 REPUBLICS
  - 11 AUTONOMOUS REGIONS (**OKRUGS**)
  - 49 PROVINCES (**OBLASTS**)
  - 6 TERRITORIES (**KRAYS**)
  - 2 AUTONOMOUS FEDERAL CITIES



## RUSSIA'S ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS